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ABSTRACT

Using 2000 U.S. Census data, this report compares the situation of children in American Samoa to children's situations in neighboring territories and the nation overall. Between 1999-2000, the number of children in American Samoa increased 24 percent, while the increase was only 14 percent nationwide during the past decade. In 2000, 45 percent of American Samoans were under age 18 years, compared with 26 percent of the U.S. population. While the national economy grew at a record pace in the 1990s, economic conditions for American Samoan children and families deteriorated. In 2000, women were the heads of household in 1 in 10 American Samoan families with children (substantially below the national average). Between 1990-2000, the percentage of 16-19-year-old American Samoan high school dropouts decreased from 21 to 17 percent (compared to 10 percent nationwide). Between 1990-2000, the number of children increased most rapidly in the western half of Tutuila Island. Poverty levels were high in all parts of the territory, with the highest rates on the Manu'a Islands. Sua County had the lowest high school dropout rate. Three appendices present Census 2000 questionnaire information, data for the total population and for children, and selected percentages for children in American Samoa. (Contains 13 references.) (SM)

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A KIDS COUNT/PRB Report on

CENSUS 2000

Children in American Samoa: Results of the 2000 Census

By the Population Reference Bureau

The Annie E. Casey Foundation and
the Population Reference Bureau
December 2002

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This paper is part of a series of reports on the 2000 Census prepared for the nationwide network of KIDS COUNT projects. These reports have been guided by the recommendations of an expert advisory group of data users and child advocates brought together in a series of meetings by the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the Population Reference Bureau. Members of the advisory group have provided valuable assistance about how to interpret and use data from the 2000 Census.

A list of the advisory group members can be found at the back of this report.

For more information or for a pdf version of this report, visit the Annie E. Casey Foundation's KIDS COUNT website at www.kidscount.org or PRB's AmeriStat website at www.ameristat.org.

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Children in American Samoa:
Results of the 2000 Census

By the Population Reference Bureau

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the Population Reference Bureau
December 2002

Executive Summary

This report provides an overview of children in American Samoa, based on data from the 2000 U.S. Census. It documents the situation of children in American Samoa, how it compares with conditions of children in neighboring territories and in the nation as a whole, and how the characteristics of children have changed over time. The following key points summarize the report's major findings:

Children in American Samoa

- Between 1990 and 2000, the number of children in American Samoa increased 24 percent, from 20,581 to 25,538. In the nation as a whole, the number of children increased by only 14 percent during the past decade.
- In 2000, about 45 percent of the population in American Samoa was under age 18, compared with 26 percent in the United States as a whole.
- While the national economy grew at a record pace in the 1990s, contributing to the lowest child poverty rate in over 20 years, economic conditions for children and families in American Samoa deteriorated. Between 1989 and 1999, the percentage of children living in poor families increased from 62 percent to 67 percent. Nationally, the child poverty rate dropped from 18 percent to 16 percent during this period.
- In 2000, women were the heads of household in one in 10 families with children in American Samoa (10 percent). This is higher than in 1990 (7 percent), but is substantially lower than the national average. Nationwide, the share of families headed by a female householder increased from 20 percent in 1990 to 22 percent in 2000.
- Between 1990 and 2000, the percentage of 16-to-19-year-olds in American Samoa who were high school dropouts (not enrolled in school and not high school graduates)

decreased from 21 percent to 17 percent. Nationwide, about 10 percent of 16-to-19-year-olds were high school dropouts in 2000.

- In American Samoa, there were 3,889 grandparents who lived with their grandchildren in 2000, and about 71 percent reported that they were responsible for child care. Nationally, only 42 percent of grandparents who lived with their grandchildren reported being responsible for their care.

Children in Local Communities

- Between 1990 and 2000, the number of children increased most rapidly in the western half of Tutuila Island (a 36 percent increase). Most of the gains were in Tualauta County, with a 49 percent increase in the population under age 18. On the eastern half of the island, there was a 13 percent increase in the number of children during the 1990s, while on the Manu'a islands, there was an 18 percent decrease.
- Poverty levels are high in all parts of the territory, but certain areas have higher poverty rates than others. In 1999, poverty rates were highest on the Manu'a islands (74 percent), followed by Tutuila Island's Western District (68 percent) and Eastern District (64 percent).
- Sua County stands out for its low rate of high school dropouts in 2000: 9 percent of teens ages 16 to 19. Dropout rates were twice as high in Tualauta (19 percent), Leasina (18 percent), and Ma'oputasi (18 percent).

Background on American Samoa

Introduction

American Samoa is an unincorporated territory of the United States located in the South Pacific Ocean, about halfway between Hawaii and New Zealand. It consists of five volcanic islands and two coral atolls (Swains and Rose islands) dispersed over 150 miles of water. In the late 1800s, Pago Pago harbor, located on the eastern end of the Samoan archipelago, was used as a coaling station for U.S. ships. The islands were acquired by the United States in 1900 and were governed by the U.S. Navy until 1951, when administration of the territory was transferred to the U.S. Department of the Interior. In 1960, American Samoa adopted a constitution, paving the way for civilian rule. Since 1977, the people of American Samoa have elected their own governor, and since 1981, they have elected a nonvoting delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives. Although U.S. involvement has brought many social and economic changes to the area, American Samoans have retained many aspects of their indigenous, Polynesian culture, including a communal land system and a strong extended family network.

The city of Fagatogo, on Tutuila Island, is the seat of government in American Samoa. The people of American Samoa elect 18 senators, a governor, and a lieutenant governor every four years, and elect 20 members to the American Samoa House of Representatives every two years. Congressional and gubernatorial elections were held in November 2002.

Demographics

The total land area of the islands in American Samoa is 76 square miles, about the size of Washington, D.C. In 2000, the total population of American Samoa was 57,291, roughly

equivalent to the population living on the island of Kaua'i in Hawaii. Over 95 percent of the population in American Samoa lives on Tutuila Island, at the western end of the island chain. Mountains throughout the territory have limited the land available for settlement.[1] Geographic isolation has also limited population growth, particularly on the two coral atolls. Rose Island is currently uninhabited, and only 37 people were living on Swains Island in 2000.

In the 2000 Census, about 88 percent of residents in American Samoa identified themselves as native Samoans. About 3 percent said they were Tongan, 4 percent identified with two or more races, and the remaining 5 percent identified with other racial or ethnic groups.

There is a relatively large foreign-born population in American Samoa (20,660 people), accounting for over one-third of the total population. Almost half of the foreign-born population (48 percent) came to the island after 1990, and the number of noncitizens in American Samoa climbed from 17,031 to 20,251 (a 19 percent increase) during the past decade.[2] Most of the new migrants are from nearby Samoa (formerly Western Samoa) and share the same language and traditions as the native people in the territory.

Economics

American Samoa's narrow economic base and limited economic opportunities have kept wages low and prevented the territory from enjoying the prosperity seen in the United States as a whole in the 1990s. While tourism has become an important source of revenue in other U.S. territories, the number of visitors to American Samoa has been severely limited by its geographic isolation and lack of economic development. It is estimated that 93 percent of American Samoa's economy is based on expenditures by the U.S. government and from the profits from two tuna canneries.[3] In 1999, per capita income was $4,357 in American Samoa, compared with

$21,587 nationwide. Federal expenditures in the territory have remained flat during the past decade, with the exception of hurricane relief funds provided after Hurricanes Ofa in 1990 and Val in 1991. While the national median household income increased by 7 percent between 1989 and 1999 (adjusting for inflation), median household income in American Samoa decreased by 13 percent.[4]

In 2000, about 5 percent of the civilian labor force in American Samoa was unemployed, compared with 6 percent nationwide. However, a recent report by the Bank of Hawaii notes that "not having a formal job in the money economy does not necessarily equate with unemployment in the territory, where subsistence activity contributes to the extended family's total welfare."[5] The U.S. Census Bureau classified a person as being engaged in "subsistence activity" "if he or she mainly produced goods for his or her own or family's use and needs, such as growing/gathering food, fishing, cutting copra for home use, raising livestock, making handicrafts for home use, and other productive activities not primarily for commercial purposes."[6] About 15 percent of adults in American Samoa reported that they were engaged in some type of subsistence activity in 2000.[7]

Children in American Samoa Compared With the Nation's Children

This section provides an overview of demographic, social, and economic trends for children in American Samoa, based primarily on data released by the U.S. Census Bureau in February 2002. Estimates for American Samoa are compared with estimates for neighboring territories and with national averages that combine data for the 50 states and the District of Columbia. American Samoa data for 1990 are based on published census reports, available on

the U.S. Census Bureau's website (www.census.gov/population/www/proas/pi_cen.html). The U.S. Census Bureau plans to release more detailed tables for American Samoa in February 2003. For information about how the census was conducted in American Samoa, see Appendix A.

General Trends

The population living in American Samoa has increased substantially during the past 60 years (see Table 1). In 1940, residents on the island numbered only 12,908. By 1970 the population had doubled, to 27,159. By 2000, the population had doubled again, reaching 57,291. Between 1990 and 2000, there was a 22 percent increase in the American Samoan population, compared with a 13 percent increase nationwide.

Table 1
Total Population and the Population Under Age 18 in American Samoa, 1940-2000

		Population under age 18	
Year	Total population	Number	Percent
1940	12,908	6,798	53%
1950	18,937	10,041	53%
1960	20,051	11,425	57%
1970	27,159	14,871	55%
1980	32,297	15,603	48%
1990	46,773	20,581	44%
2000	57,291	25,538	45%

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 1950 Census Characteristics of the Population, Territories and Possessions; 1960 Census General Population Characteristics for American Samoa; 1970 Census General Population Characteristics for American Samoa; 1980 Census General Population Characteristics for American Samoa; 1990 Census General Population Characteristics for American Samoa; and 2000 Census Population and Housing Profile for American Samoa.

The number of children living in American Samoa has also increased substantially during the past 60 years, and exceeded the growth rate of the adult population during the 1990s. The increase in the population under age 18 has been fueled by high fertility rates and by the arrival of immigrant families with children. Between 1990 and 2000, the number of children increased

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24 percent, from 20,581 to 25,538. In the nation as a whole, the number of children increased by 14 percent during the past decade.

Although the number of children in American Samoa has increased steadily since World War II, the *percentage* of the population under age 18 has fluctuated over time. In 1940/1950, 53 percent of the population in American Samoa was under age 18. In 1960, the share of children increased to 57 percent. During the next two decades, the percentage of children decreased, falling to 44 percent of the population in 1990. In 2000, about 45 percent of the population was under age 18. This is a high proportion under age 18 compared with the United States as a whole (26 percent). In 2000, American Samoa also had relatively few people ages 65 and older (3 percent) compared with the national average (12 percent). Thus, at both ends of the age distribution, American Samoa looks "younger" than the United States overall. In 2000, the median age in American Samoa was only 21 years, compared with 35 years in the nation as a whole.[8]

The young age structure of American Samoa's population has been sustained by relatively high fertility rates. In the 2000 Census in American Samoa, over one-third (34 percent) of women ages 35 to 44 reported having five or more births over their lifetimes. This is considerably higher than the share of women reporting five or more births in other U.S. territories, including the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (10 percent) and Guam (12 percent). Nationwide, only about 3 percent of women ages 35 to 44 had given birth to five or more children.[9]

The fact that American Samoa has a relatively large number of children has important social implications for American Samoan society. The "child dependency ratio" (the number of people under age 18 for every 100 people ages 18 to 64) is 86 in American Samoa—more than

twice the national average (42). Although extended family networks in American Samoa provide a safety net for many children, there is also a growing need for programs to provide child care and youth and family services in the territory. Providing services for the young is likely to consume a substantial share of American Samoa's resources—and presents a major challenge given the recent downturn of the economy.

Poverty

While the national economy grew at a record pace in the 1990s, contributing to the lowest child poverty rate in over 20 years, the economic conditions for children and families in American Samoa deteriorated. Between 1989 and 1999, the number of children living in families with incomes below the poverty line grew 34 percent, from 12,519 to 16,748 (see Table 2). The *percentage* of children in poor families increased from 62 percent in 1989 to 67 percent in 1999. Nationally, the child poverty rate dropped from 18 percent to 16 percent during the 1990s.

Table 2
Children and Families Below Poverty in American Samoa, 1989 and 1999

	1989		1999		
Segment of the Population	**Number below poverty**	**Percent below poverty**	**Number below poverty**	**Percent below poverty**	**% change in number below poverty**
Related children under age 18	12,519	62%	16,748	67%	34%
Under age 5	4,357	64%	5,257	68%	21%
Ages 5 to 17	8,162	61%	11,491	66%	41%
Families	3,563	57%	5,072	58%	42%
With related children under age 18	3,323	59%	4,705	62%	42%
Female-headed families	483	63%	865	62%	79%
With related children under age 18	425	64%	780	65%	84%

Note: Poverty thresholds vary by family size and composition. In 1999, the poverty threshold for a family of two adults and two children was $16,895. Poverty status is not determined for people in military barracks or institutional quarters, or for unrelated individuals under age 15. Related children include people under age 18 related to the householder (excluding spouses).
Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 Census Social and Economic Characteristics for American Samoa and 2000 Census Population and Housing Profile for American Samoa.

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The 1999 child poverty rate in American Samoa was considerably higher than the child poverty rate in the nearby Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (38 percent) Guam (29 percent), and in every U.S. state and the District of Columbia.[10] The number of families living in poverty also rose, from 3,563 in 1989 to 5,072 in 1999, a 42 percent increase.

Female-headed Families

Family structure has important implications for children. Children growing up in single-parent families typically do not have access to the economic or human resources available to children growing up in two-parent families. Nationwide, the number of single-parent families has risen dramatically over the past three decades, causing considerable concern among policymakers and the public. While local social and cultural norms may influence the situation for children living in single parent families, children in American Samoa growing up in single-parent families are still at an economic disadvantage relative to children growing up in married-couple families. About 62 percent of families with children were below poverty in 1999, while among female-headed families with children, 65 percent were below poverty. Nationwide, about 34 percent of female-headed families with children were below poverty in 1999.

However, in American Samoa, female-headed families are still relatively rare. In 2000, there were 640 female-headed families with children, up from 345 in 1990. The number of married-couple families also increased during the decade, from 4,105 to 5,261. In 2000, one in 10 families with children in American Samoa (10 percent) were headed by a female householder (see Table 3). This represents an increase over the share of female-headed families with children in 1990 (7 percent) but is still substantially lower than the national average. Nationwide, the share of female-headed families increased from 20 percent in 1990 to 22 percent in 2000.

The share of female-headed families increased in 48 of the 50 states (Colorado and Utah were the exceptions). In the Northern Mariana Islands, about 17 percent of families with children were headed by a female householder in 2000, up from 12 percent in 1990. And in Guam, the figure increased from 14 percent to 19 percent during the 1990s. These data suggest that the increase in female-headed households in American Samoa was typical of the trends throughout the United States and its territories.

Table 3
Families With Own Children in American Samoa, 1990 and 2000

	1990		2000		Percent change in number of families
Segment of the Population	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Total families with own children	4,605	100%	6,297	100%	37%
Married-couple households	4,105	89%	5,261	84%	28%
Female-headed households	345	7%	640	10%	86%

Note: Own children include never-married children under age 18 who are sons or daughters of the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption.
Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 Census Social and Economic Characteristics for American Samoa and 2000 Census Population and Housing Profile for American Samoa.

High School Dropouts

A high school diploma is a critical prerequisite for many entry-level jobs as well as for higher education. Between 1990 and 2000, the percentage of 16-to-19-year-olds in American Samoa who were high school dropouts (not enrolled in school and not high school graduates) decreased from 21 percent to 17 percent.[11] Nationwide, about 10 percent of 16-to-19-year-olds were high school dropouts in 2000, but the dropout rate varied considerably by state.[12]

In 2000, American Samoa's dropout rate was higher than that in every state. The 2000 dropout rate in American Samoa was lower than the dropout rate in the Northern Mariana Islands (30 percent) but higher than the dropout rate in Guam (14 percent).

Demand for Child Care

The need for child care can be estimated based on the percentage of young children living in families where all of the parents in the household reported being in the labor force during the week before the survey.[13] For children living in single-parent families, this means that the resident parent was in the labor force; for children living in married-couple families, this means that both parents were in the labor force.

Census 2000 data show that the demand for child care is lower in American Samoa than it is in the nation as a whole. In American Samoa, only 40 percent of children under age 6 lived in families where all of the resident parents were in the labor force in 2000, compared with 59 percent nationwide. The share of children in need of child care was substantially higher in the Northern Mariana Islands (64 percent) and Guam (56 percent).

In American Samoa, as elsewhere, it is common for grandparents to provide child care while parents are working, and in many households, grandparents are the primary caregivers for young children. For the 2000 Census, the U.S. Census Bureau added a new question to measure the extent to which grandparents provided care to their grandchildren. In American Samoa, there were 3,889 grandparents who lived with their grandchildren in 2000, and about 71 percent reported that they were responsible for child care. This shows the importance of extended family members—particularly grandparents—as caregivers in American Samoan society. Nationally, only 42 percent of grandparents who lived with their grandchildren reported being responsible for child care.

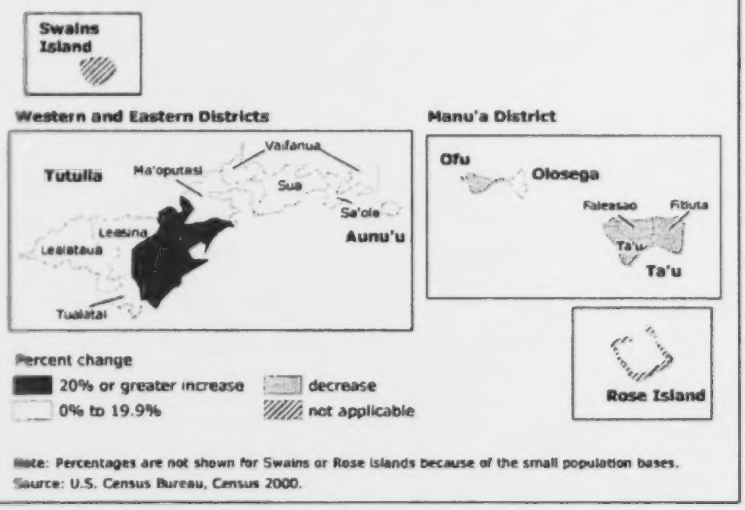
Children in Local Communities

Data from the decennial census provide detailed information for local communities in American Samoa that are not available from any other source. This report takes an in-depth look at the characteristics of children and families living in the three districts, two islands, and 14 counties that make up the territory. The three districts in American Samoa are functioning governmental units, roughly equivalent to counties in the United States. The two islands (Rose and Swains) are also county-equivalents, but do not have any governmental functions. Rose Island is not included in any of the tables of this report because it is uninhabited, but Swains Island is included. The counties that are included in this analysis are roughly equivalent to minor civil divisions in the United States. The data show wide variations in child outcomes across these jurisdictions. (See Appendices B and C for tables that summarize the data for different areas.)

General Trends

Between 1990 and 2000, the population under age 18 living in American Samoa increased by 24 percent, but trends varied considerably in local areas (see Map 1). The number of children increased most rapidly in the Western

Map 1
Percent Change in Number of Children in American Samoa, 1990 to 2000



Note: Percentages are not shown for Swains or Rose islands because of the small population bases.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.

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District on Tutuila Island (a 36 percent increase). Most of the gains were in Tualauta County, with a 49 percent increase in the population under age 18. In Tutuila Island's Eastern District, there was a 13 percent increase in the number of children during the 1990s, and Ituau County saw the biggest gains (a 21 percent increase). In the Manu'a District, consisting of Ofu, Olosega, and Ta'u islands, there was an 18 percent decrease in the population under age 18 during the 1990s. Of the five counties that make up the district, Olosega Island was the only one where the number of children increased (a 16 percent gain). On Swains Island, the number of children increased from 10 to 16.

Table 4
Total Population and the Population Under Age 18 in American Samoa, by District and County, 2000

Area	Total population	Population under age 18	Percent of population under age 18
American Samoa	**57,291**	**25,538**	**45%**
Eastern District	23,441	10,290	44%
Ituau County	4,312	1,907	44%
Ma'oputasi County	11,695	5,022	43%
Sa'ole County	1,768	786	44%
Sua County	3,417	1,559	46%
Vaifanua County	2,249	1,016	45%
Manu'a District	1,378	641	47%
Faleasao County	135	55	41%
Fitiuta County	358	184	51%
Ofu County	289	115	40%
Olosega County	216	102	47%
Ta'u County	380	185	49%
Swains Island	37	16	43%
Western District	32,435	14,591	45%
Lealataua County	5,684	2,579	45%
Leasina County	1,739	797	46%
Tualatai County	2,987	1,377	46%
Tualauta County	22,025	9,838	45%

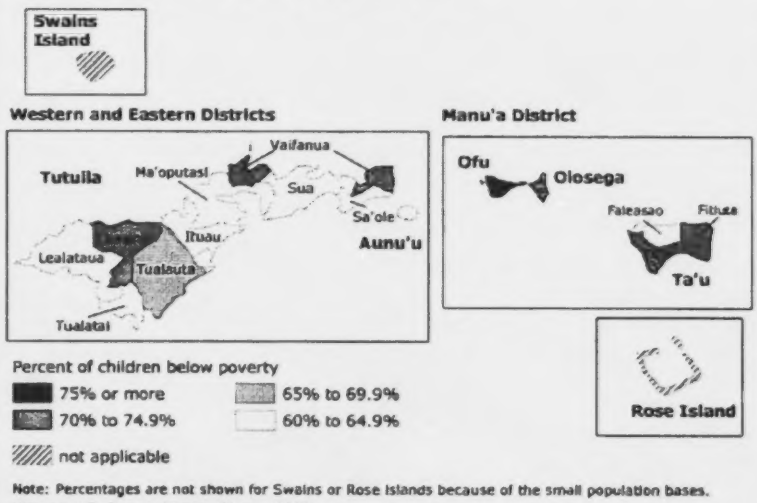
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census Population and Housing Profile for American Samoa.

There is not a lot of local variation in the percentage of the population under age 18 (see Table 4). In 2000, the share of children in the population was highest in Fitiuta (51 percent) and lowest in Ofu (40 percent) and Faleasao (41 percent). In the other 11 counties, the percentage of the population under age 18 ranged between 43 percent and 47 percent.

Poverty

Poverty levels are also high in all parts of the territory (see Map 2, Table 5), though certain areas have higher poverty rates than others. In 1999, poverty rates were highest in the Manu'a District (74 percent), followed by Tutuila Island's Western District (68 percent) and Eastern District (64 percent). At the county level, child poverty rates were highest in Ofu (83 percent), Olosega (74 percent), and Vaifanua (74 percent) and lowest in Sa'ole (62 percent). On Swains Island, the number of children below poverty decreased from 10 to 8 during the 1990s.

Map 2
Child Poverty Rates in American Samoa, 1999



Note: Percentages are not shown for Swains or Rose Islands because of the small population bases.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.

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Table 5

Related Children Below Poverty in American Samoa, by District and County, 1999

Area	Number of related children below poverty	Percent of related children below poverty
American Samoa	**16,748**	**67%**
Eastern District	6,538	64%
Ituau County	1,217	65%
Ma'oputasi County	3,136	63%
Sa'ole County	476	62%
Sua County	969	63%
Vaifanua County	740	74%
Manu'a District	470	74%
Faleasao County	35	64%
Fitiuta County	135	73%
Ofu County	94	83%
Olosega County	75	74%
Ta'u County	131	72%
Swains Island	8	—
Western District	9,732	68%
Lealataua County	1,593	63%
Leasina County	556	71%
Tualatai County	868	64%
Tualauta County	6,715	69%

Note: Poverty thresholds vary by family size and composition. In 1999, the poverty threshold for a family of two adults and two children was $16,895. Poverty status is not determined for people in military barracks or institutional quarters, or for unrelated individuals under age 15. Related children include people under age 18 related to the householder (excluding spouses).

— Percentage is not shown because there are fewer than 30 cases in the denominator.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census Population and Housing Profile for American Samoa.

The county with the highest child poverty rate—Ofu—also had the highest rate of unemployment in the territory (46 percent). In nearby Olosega County, 34 percent of the civilian labor force was unemployed, and 74 percent of children were below poverty. Thus, for many families with children, the lack of economic opportunities has kept incomes below the poverty line.

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Female-headed Families

Female-headed families were relatively rare throughout the territory in 2000. The percentage of families with children that were headed by a female householder ranged from 10 percent to 11 percent in the Tutuila and Manu'a islands. At the county level, the share of female-headed families was slightly higher in Ofu (15 percent) and Leasina (14 percent), and lower in Fitiuta (3 percent) and Ta'u (7 percent).

Table 6
Female-Headed Families With Own Children in American Samoa, by District and County, 2000

Area	Families with own children	Female-headed families with own children	Percent of families with own children that are headed by women
American Samoa	**6,297**	**640**	**10%**
Eastern District	2,485	271	11%
Ituau County	463	42	9%
Ma'oputasi County	1,198	138	12%
Sa'ole County	181	22	12%
Sua County	393	48	12%
Vaifanua County	250	21	8%
Manu'a District	142	15	11%
Faleasao County	10	4	---
Fitiuta County	34	1	3%
Ofu County	34	5	15%
Olosega County	20	2	---
Ta'u County	44	3	7%
Swains Island	4	0	---
Western District	3,666	354	10%
Lealataua County	612	62	10%
Leasina County	196	28	14%
Tualatai County	316	29	9%
Tualauta County	2,542	235	9%

Note: Own children include never-married children under age 18 who are sons or daughters of the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption.
--- Percentage is not shown because there are fewer than 30 cases in the denominator.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census Population and Housing Profile for American Samoa.

High School Dropouts

Dropout rates in 2000 varied in American Samoa's local areas (see Table 7). Sua County stands out for having the lowest percentage of high school dropouts in 2000: 9 percent of teens ages 16 to 19. Dropout rates were twice as high in Tualauta (19 percent), Leasina (18 percent), and Ma'oputasi (18 percent). At the district level, the dropout rate was higher in Tutuila Island's Western District (18 percent) than in the Eastern District (16 percent) or in the Manu'a islands (15 percent). None of the three teens living on Swains Island in 2000 were high school dropouts.

Table 7
Teens Who Are High School Dropouts in American Samoa, by District and County, 2000

Area	Teens ages 16 to 19	Teens ages 16 to 19 who are high school dropouts	Percent of teens ages 16 to 19 who are dropouts
American Samoa	**4,089**	**687**	**17%**
Eastern District	1,638	254	16%
Ituau County	292	47	16%
Ma'oputasi County	830	146	18%
Sa'ole County	116	17	15%
Sua County	244	21	9%
Vaifanua County	156	23	15%
Manu'a District	71	11	15%
Faleasao County	10	0	—
Fitiuta County	19	1	—
Ofu County	11	5	—
Olosega County	7	2	—
Ta'u County	24	3	—
Swains Island	3	0	—
Western District	2,377	422	18%
Lealataua County	433	64	15%
Leasina County	140	25	18%
Tualatai County	228	33	14%
Tualauta County	1,576	300	19%

Note: — Percentage is not shown because there are fewer than 30 cases in the denominator.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census Population and Housing Profile for American Samoa.

Demand for Child Care

In 2000, the demand for child care was highest in American Samoa's Olosega Island, where 75 percent of children lived in families with all parents in the labor force (see Table 8). Ofu Island was close behind at 64 percent. However, "labor force participation" is somewhat misleading in this case, since over a third of the adults living on Olosega and Ofu islands were unemployed in 2000. The need for child care is probably overstated in this case, since many parents who are looking for work are also available for child care.

Table 8
Children Under Age 6 With All Parents in the Labor Force in American Samoa, by District and County, 2000

Area	Children under age 6	Children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force
American Samoa	**7,338**	**2,909**	**40%**
Eastern District	2,906	1,206	42%
Ituau County	590	257	44%
Ma'oputasi County	1,402	614	44%
Sa'ole County	190	83	44%
Sua County	436	156	36%
Vaifanua County	288	96	33%
Manu'a District	184	78	42%
Faleasao County	7	0	---
Fitiuta County	55	16	29%
Ofu County	42	27	64%
Olosega County	36	27	75%
Ta'u County	44	8	18%
Swains Island	3	1	---
Western District	4,245	1,624	38%
Lealataua County	691	293	42%
Leasina County	213	91	43%
Tualatai County	359	125	35%
Tualauta County	2,982	1,115	37%

Note: --- Percentage is not shown because there are fewer than 30 cases in the denominator.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census Population and Housing Profile for American Samoa.

Appendix A: Census 2000 Long Form Questionnaire Used in American Samoa

In the United States, the census long form was sent to a sample of approximately 1 in 6 residents, but in American Samoa every household with a mailbox received a long form questionnaire. The long form includes all of the basic demographic questions from the census short form, plus questions on education, family structure, household characteristics, income, place of residence, and other characteristics. Since the long form data for American Samoa are based on a complete enumeration of the population, there is no sampling error associated with these data. However, it is important to remember that there may be other sources of error associated with these numbers.

In American Samoa, people were enumerated based on usual place of residence. Therefore, foreign travelers and others who do not have their usual residence in American Samoa are excluded from this analysis.

The questionnaire on population characteristics in American Samoa closely matches the census form used in the United States, with a few minor modifications:

- In American Samoa, information on race and ethnicity was collected in a single, open-ended question: "What is this person's ethnic origin or race?" while the standard short form included separate questions on race and Hispanic origin, each with a list of distinct categories.
- While the standard long form included a question about level of education, residents of American Samoa were also asked whether they had completed any vocational training programs.

- The modified questionnaire in American Samoa excluded the question on ancestry that was asked on the standard long form questionnaire.
- People who were not born in American Samoa were asked to report the main reason for moving to the territory (a question not asked on the standard long form questionnaire).
- American Samoans were asked about children ever born, a question that was dropped from the standard 2000 Census long form.
- The census form in American Samoa included questions to determine parental place of birth. This information was not collected from residents of U.S. states or the District of Columbia.
- The census form in American Samoa also included questions to determine subsistence activity during the week prior to the survey.

There were also several questions on housing in American Samoa that were not included on questionnaires in U.S. states, including questions about cooking fuel, source of water, sewage disposal, and condominium status.

The data shown in this report are based on 2000 Census long form data released in February 2002. More detailed long form tables are scheduled to be released in February 2003. For more information about how the census was conducted in American Samoa, see "Introduction to Census 2000 Data Products—Pacific Island Areas" on the U.S. Census Bureau's website at www.census.gov/prod/2001pubs/dmd01cdpi.pdf.

Appendix B: Selected Data for the Total Population and for Children in American Samoa, by District and County, 2000

Area	Total population	Population under age 18	Number of related children below poverty (1999)	Family households with own children	Female-headed households with own children	Teens ages 16 to 19	Teens ages 16 to 19 who are high school dropouts	Children under age 6	Children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force
American Samoa	**57,291**	**25,538**	**16,748**	**6,297**	**640**	**4,089**	**687**	**7,338**	**2,909**
Eastern District	23,441	10,290	6,538	2,485	271	1,638	254	2,906	1,206
Ituau County	4,312	1,907	1,217	463	42	292	47	590	257
Ma'oputasi County	11,695	5,022	3,136	1,198	138	830	146	1,402	614
Sa'ole County	1,768	786	476	181	22	116	17	190	83
Sua County	3,417	1,559	969	393	48	244	21	436	156
Vaifanua County	2,249	1,016	740	250	21	156	23	288	96
Manu'a District	1,378	641	470	142	15	71	11	184	78
Faleasao County	135	55	35	10	4	10	0	7	0
Fitiuta County	358	184	135	34	1	19	1	55	16
Ofu County	289	115	94	34	5	11	5	42	27
Olosega County	216	102	75	20	2	7	2	36	27
Ta'u County	380	185	131	44	3	24	3	44	8
Swains Island	37	16	8	4	0	3	0	3	1
Western District	32,435	14,591	9,732	3,666	354	2,377	422	4,245	1,624
Lealataua County	5,684	2,579	1,593	612	62	433	64	691	293
Leasina County	1,739	797	556	196	28	140	25	213	91
Tualatai County	2,987	1,377	868	316	29	228	33	359	125
Tualauta County	22,025	9,838	6,715	2,542	235	1,576	300	2,982	1,115

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census Population and Housing Profile for American Samoa.

Appendix C: Selected Percentages for Children in American Samoa, by District and County, 2000

District	Percent of population under age 18	Percent of related children below poverty (1999)	Percent of families with children headed by a female householder	Percent of teens ages 16 to 19 who are high school dropouts	Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in labor force
American Samoa	**45%**	**67%**	**10%**	**17%**	**40%**
Eastern District	44%	64%	11%	16%	42%
Ituau County	44%	65%	9%	16%	44%
Ma'oputasi County	43%	63%	12%	18%	44%
Sa'ole County	44%	62%	12%	15%	44%
Sua County	46%	63%	12%	9%	36%
Vaifanua County	45%	74%	8%	15%	33%
Manu'a District	47%	74%	11%	15%	42%
Faleasao County	41%	64%	---	---	---
Fitiuta County	51%	73%	3%	---	29%
Ofu County	40%	83%	15%	---	64%
Olosega County	47%	74%	---	---	75%
Ta'u County	49%	72%	7%	---	18%
Swains Island	43%	---	---	---	---
Western District		68%	10%	18%	38%
Lealataua County	45%	63%	10%	15%	42%
Leasina County	45%	71%	14%	18%	43%
Tualatai County	46%	64%	9%	14%	35%
Tualauta County	46%	69%	9%	19%	37%

Note: --- Percentage is not shown because there are fewer than 30 cases in the denominator.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census Population and Housing Profile for American Samoa.

References

[1] American Samoa Economic Commission, "Transforming the Economy of American Samoa," accessed online at www.asg-gov.com/0015ASEACWEBPAGE.htm.

[2] U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census Population and Housing Profile for American Samoa; U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 Census Social, Economic, and Housing Characteristics for American Samoa.

[3] U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Insular Affairs, *A Report on the State of the Islands, 1999*, accessed online at www.doi.gov/oia/pdf/islands.pdf, on Oct. 22, 2002.

[4] The 2000 Census, like the 1990 Census, asked questions about income in the previous calendar year. Therefore, income and poverty are reported for 1989 and 1999.

[5] Bank of Hawaii, *American Samoa Economic Report*, April 1997, accessed online at www.boh.com/econ/pacific/as/08.asp on Nov. 18, 2002.

[6] U.S. Census Bureau, "Pacific Islands Profile Subject Definitions," accessed online at www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2002/islearea_apdxb-ia.pdf on Nov. 18, 2002.

[7] U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census Population and Housing Profile for American Samoa.

[8] The median is the value that divides a distribution exactly in half. Therefore, half of the people in American Samoa were older than 21 in 2000, and half were younger.

[9] U.S. Census Bureau, Table 1: Distribution of Women by Average Number of Children Ever Born, by Race, Age, and Marital Status: June 2000, accessed online at www.census.gov/population/socdemo/fertility/p20-543/tab01.xls, on Oct. 24, 2002.

[10] In 1999, the U.S. poverty threshold for a family of two adults and two children was $16,895. Poverty guidelines include higher income thresholds for Hawaii and Alaska but are not adjusted for U.S. territories. The child poverty rate in the District of Columbia in 1999 was 31 percent.

[11] Some teens who are not enrolled in school and are not high school graduates are in the armed forces. Census 2000 data that are currently available do not distinguish between high school dropouts who are civilians and those who are in the military.

[12] This national estimate of high school dropouts (10 percent), based on 2000 Census data, differs from the estimate of 11 percent shown in a previous report, "A First Look at Children in the U.S. Virgin Islands," which was based on data from the Census 2000 Supplementary Survey. National numbers from the 2000 Census were unavailable at the time the previous report was published.

[13] The labor force includes people who are employed and also those who are unemployed and looking for work. In American Samoa, about 5 percent of the civilian labor force was unemployed in 2000.

For More Information:

Additional 2000 Census data on American Samoa (in Excel and PDF format) are available from the U.S. Census Bureau at www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/islandareas.html.

Data for American Samoa from the 1990 Census (in PDF format) are available from the U.S. Census Bureau at www.census.gov/population/www/proas/pi_cen.html.

For definitions of some of the census terms used in this report, see "A Glossary of Census Terms," available on the KIDS COUNT website at www.aecf.org/kidscount/glossary.pdf.

For more information about this report, contact Mark Mather at the Population Reference Bureau, phone 202/ 939-5433; e-mail: mmather@prb.org.

Members of the KIDS COUNT Advisory Group on Census 2000:

Suzanne Bianchi
University of Maryland at College Park

Brett Brown
Child Trends

Roderick Harrison
Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies

Donald J. Hernandez
State University of New York at Albany

Ken Hodges
Claritas, Inc.

Laura Lippman
National Center for Education Statistics

Louisa Miller
U.S. Census Bureau

Martin O'Connell
U.S. Census Bureau

Matt Snipp
Stanford University

KIDS COUNT Members:

Laura Beavers
Rhode Island KIDS COUNT

Joan Benso
Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children

Mike Crawford
Child and Family Policy Center

Rich Huddleston
Arkansas Advocates for Children & Families

Thomas McDonald
University of Kansas

Debbie Morgan
KIDS COUNT Network

Kelly O'Donnell
New Mexico Advocates for Children & Families

Terry Schooley
University of Delaware

Annie E. Casey Foundation Staff:

William O'Hare
Megan Reynolds

PRB Staff:

John Haaga
Mark Mather
Kelvin Pollard
Kerri Rivers
Cheryl Stauffer
Nicole Bramstedt

Opinions expressed in this paper do not necessarily represent the views of the advisory group members.

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The Annie E. Casey Foundation
701 Saint Paul Street
Baltimore, MD 21202
www.aecf.org

Population Reference Bureau
1875 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 520
Washington, DC 20009
www.prb.org

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